Dear Mr,

1/2/73

The note you added to the ChiTrib 12/28/73 Howard Hughes Indicted story asks if this Air West deal could be Operation Phoenix. I wish I knew the answer. Save for the symbolic, the rising from the ashes, I see no special significance to the core name. I assume it has one that I've missed, esp. if Hunt slected it. Noen of the few things I've thought of seem to make much sense. I just can't project myself enough into Hunt' special meanings and interpretations and political views to know what he would regard as, for example, risen from the ashes. Perhaps something anti-CIA or anti-Castro or anti anti-Hunt's friends and co-believers. Maybe some who once Hunt Nixon much. But I don t see any special reason to connect with Hughes or Air West. There was a Greenspun breakin but the safe withstood the burglars. And the Ervin committee's earlier approach was an abortion. The indicted Chester Davis is the partner of Archie Cox's brother.

I suggest that Hughes' return to the Bahamas is a result of the Vesco decision on extradition. England is too servile. Ray was not subject to extradition under that treaty but he was extradicted. Under the same treaty Vesco was ruled not subject to extradition. Flees Hughes to that jurisdiction!

The treaty is explicit: political crimes are not extradictable. Can you imagine a more political crime than the one with which Ray was charged? This addresses motive, and there could have been no non-political motive.

If you hear anything more about those two Chicago wiremen, I'd like to hear. Even if only noises, so I can be alert.

Meanwhile, for what my opinion is worth, Hunt has an ongoing deal that is improved a bit by release pending appeal. He has said less than he could and has not ever been asked all or even the right questions. No whisper on him would not interest.

Thanks and best, HW 1/22/74